United Nations

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Officials of the United Nations team inspecting Iraqi nuclear facilities say it would be difficult to believe that Iraq's nuclear programme had been aimed at exclusively peaceful issues.

- Secretary-General calls on Security Council to lift sanctions against Iraq so that it can make payments to Compensation Fund.

- Secretary-General sends message to Group of Seven Summit in London, urging that the developing countries be allowed to participate in international debate on economic issues.

- The International Committee of the Red Cross expresses concern about detainees in Israel and the occupied territories, in view of "the lack of response to previous representations".

- Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission concludes session; next round of talks set for 12 August.

- Secretary-General to attend Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government in Mexico.

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Officials of the United Nations team inspecting nuclear facilities in Iraq said last night that it would be difficult to believe that Iraq's nuclear programme had been aimed at exclusively peaceful purposes, based on the results of their inspections.

That statement was made as they briefed correspondents following their oral report to the Security Council on their work in Iraq. The panel consisted of Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission set up under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) to inspect and dispose of Iraqi armaments; Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is empowered under resolution 687 to conduct similar

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inspections of Iraq's nuclear materials and facilities; and Maurizio Zifferero, Deputy Director-General and head of the IAEA action team conducting those inspections.

Mr. Ekeus said that, at the request of the members of the Security Council, the team had presented some assessments and early results based on the two nuclear inspections which had been carried out, and the third inspection, which was now concluding in Baghdad. The team had also given an assessment and analysis of the Iraqi declarations, especially one which arrived on 7 July, as well as additional information which had come out on Sunday, 14 July.

Mr. Ekeus said the report to the Council had highlighted the uranium enrichment programme which had now been confirmed by Iraq, and whether it was fundamentally directed at peaceful energy production or for nuclear-weapons production. He said the answers to those questions were not to be given by the team but by Council members.

Mr. Blix said most people, in considering Iraq's nuclear programme, which cost billions of dollars, would say "it was not plausible that this was a peaceful programme". He said he told the Council that the Iraqi programme had not been conducted in compliance with Iraq's obligations under the safeguards agreement with IAEA, under which Iraq would have been obliged to declare some of the materials which had only now become public.

For that reason, he had convoked a special meeting of IAEA's Board of Governors for Thursday, 18 July. If the Board accepted that view, it would report on that non-compliance to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has urged the Security Council to lift the sanctions against Iraq to enable the country to sell oil in order to make payments to the Compensation Fund.

The Fund has been set up under the auspices of the United Nations to handle claims for damages and losses resulting from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. The Fund was established by the Security Council as part of the terms of the cease-fire resolution.

In a report to the Council, dated 15 July, the Secretary-General recommended that Iraq be allowed to sell some oil and petroleum products as "the most obvious way of obtaining financial resources" for the Compensation Fund. He said "the net proceeds of such sales would be deposited in a United Nations account to be used to reimburse the costs" of carrying out the tasks related to the Fund. The Secretary-General said the quantities to be sold would have to be established "in the light of these costs".

He recommended that the sanctions imposed on Iraq under Security Council resolution 661 (1990) be "lifted for a limited period and under clearly defined conditions", in order to provide revenues to the Fund. He said the

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arrangement would require strict cooperation on the part of Iraq and close international supervision and monitoring of the sale of petroleum and petroleum products from Iraq. The Secretary-General said that if Iraq failed to meet its payment obligations, he would report the matter to the Security Council.

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Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar has urged the seven major industrial Powers to include the developing countries in the international decision-making process on economic issues.

In a message to the Group of Seven Summit in London, the Secretary-General called for an international conference to discuss the overall requirement of adequate financial resources for development. He said stronger economic growth, the phasing out of agricultural subsidies, as well as deeper cuts in military expenditures, both in industrialized and developing countries, could generate substantial new resources.

The Secretary-General also proposed the forgiveness of official debt and increased financial flows to Africa. He said that without far-reaching long-term measures in support of the efforts of the African countries, the world might be confronted with a tragedy of vast dimensions. He also recommended the writing off of a large part of debt to other heavily indebted countries.

The Secretary-General criticized protectionism, and called on the industrialized countries to create a truly liberal international trading system which would provide far greater access to developed markets.

While recognizing the need for additional assistance to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, he said such aid should not come at the expense of the developing countries.

The Secretary-General also said that environmental issues should not be conditions for international assistance, but rather that the industrialized countries should renew efforts to provide developing nations with environmentally sound technologies.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar also spoke about the financial needs of the United Nations, saying more resources were needed to strengthen the Organization to enable it to deal with emergency situations.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today submitted a further report to the highest authorities of the State of Israel, on the situation of detainees undergoing interrogation in Israel and the occupied territories, in view of what it calls "the lack of response to previous representations".

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According to a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters today, ICRC said its delegates have regularly visited detainees in investigation sections in Israel and the occupied territories, on the basis of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The ICRC said it was appealing to the Israeli authorities to give special attention to the treatment of detainees under interrogation, and to implement the recommendations the Organization has already made.

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The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission has concluded its second round of talks, which lasted approximately two weeks in Geneva.

Decisions were reached on the methodology to be applied in demarcating the western portion, on the approximate location of the boundary in the vicinity of Safwan in the northern section and on the need to undertake new survey and mapping to facilitate final demarcation.

Surveying of a wide zone around the boundary, which will be undertaken by the national survey departments of New Zealand and Sweden in a joint venture, will begin in the fall. The next round of talks is scheduled for 12 August in Geneva.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General will travel to Mexico tomorrow, 17 July, at the invitation of the Mexican Government, to attend the first Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government. During the Summit, the Secretary General will hold bilateral meetings with Heads of State and Government. He will return to New York on Saturday, 20 July.

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